

Utah CAP musings....

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Utah CAP members....

Question: How many Utah CAP members does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: All of them.

Because: Many hands make light work.

OK, I know that's pretty lame, but it's true. In the past six months I am humbled to count many names on the lists of people making things happen. THANK YOU!

Last weekend we held a VERY successful wing conference. Following the banquet, Gen. Marc Reynolds took me aside and commented that we have a "great team of dedicated members." Yes we do!

Let me just ramble a little on a variety of topics....

DeVaughn Simper did an outstanding job on organizing and supervising our conference. All of our squadrons (but one) were represented. In the next day or two a full report of what happened and a list of awards presented should be posted on the Yahoo group. What a banquet! To be in the Air Force Museum seated among historic aircraft and have a three-star general address us? Wow!

Our wing drill team and color guard recently traveled to Colorado to compete in the cadet competition. Our teams represented the wing and did an excellent job. Our drill team moves now to the national competition and several of our color guard members said "next year we go to national."

Our operations and response team reports almost a 25% increase in mission pilots. A recent exercise flew 29 sorties, many of them in support of a natural disaster scenario. Additional exercises are planned including one locally planned in Price in support of local emergency services needs. OUTSTANDING! Logan is gearing up to create their own exercise as well!

Our membership is at 660 -- 313 cadets and 347 seniors. This is an overall increase of 123% over last year -- but -- more importantly our members are heavily involved in cadet programs, aerospace education, professional development and emergency services.

One third of our seniors have completed the "Yeager Award" for aerospace education. Over 80% of our seniors have completed at least one level of professional development. Almost 40% of our cadets have achieved a milestone award. Over half of our cadets have participated in an orientation flight. We have seen increases in the number of mission observers, scanners, incident commanders and all staff support areas.

A recent survey audit (which looks at how well we manage our equipment) rated the wing successful. Our most recent finance audit was also successful. Our wing's inspector general is actively conducting supervisory unit inspections to help all of us find ways to ensure our program is successful. Our legal officer has just attended the national legal officer course.

We are seeing a high percentage completion of "stuff" like the cadet protection training, operational security course, risk management and safety courses. Our safety officers are actively looking for ways to prevent problems and are ensuring safety is not compromised and is incorporated into EVERY thing we do.

With TREMENDOUS support from Pat Morley and the Division of Aeronautics, our wing headquarters has some new equipment to help us serve Utah at a higher level of efficiency. Members and guests comment routinely at how our members take care of our aircraft and vehicles and about the professional attitude displayed. They comment about our skill levels and expertise.

Our uniforms are looking sharper. Our members are increasing in ES skill and knowledge -- and agencies are noticing and making positive comments.

This summer the USAF will be in Salt Lake City to evaluate our ability to respond as expected for emergency services events. We will need all of you to be ready to respond and participate. Evaluators will help identify areas where we can continue to improve and better serve.

Our alerting system is at that tipping point of going live. We'll be better able to alert our members when the calls come.

This summer the wing will conduct an annual encampment -- a place where our cadets will spend a week at Camp Williams learning leadership skills and enjoying all manner of educational events. It will be many of our senior members volunteering a week of their time that will ensure our cadets have this opportunity.

This summer the Inland Search and Rescue School will come to SLC. Half of the students will be local agency (public service primarily) members who will attend the week-long course in the wing headquarters building. This week allows CAP to meet agency employees and show how we can help each other.

This summer the CAP Hq and USAF will conduct a "compliance inspection" where the

wing staff will show we are in compliance with our CAP regulations and providing oversight for the wing. This is how we ensure we continue to receive USAF funding and support!

Many of you will be attending the National Emergency Services Academy this summer to hone and develop mission skills. And then you'll be bringing that NESAs expertise back to the wing to teach others.

You are helping get on-time and correct reports submitted for vehicles and aircraft. You are ensuring receipts are uploaded quickly. You are helping members keep current in ES skills. Instead of just complaining, you are offering suggestions and then helping make it happen. You are participating in on-line courses such as those offered to EVERY member by FEMA.

Who is doing all of this? YOU ARE! Why is so much happening? You are all actively involved and moving us forward. "Many hands make light work."

Reflections about Utah CAP following the annual banquet? I'm honored and humbled to be counted among 660 friends! Thank you very much!

Jerry Wellman
Commander, Utah Wing
